Trade deficit

815. *SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of* COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to the trade trend during the first ten months of 1985-86 India's trade deficit is likely to rise much above the anticipated deficit;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether in order to minimise the trade deficit Government propose to export surplus agricultural commodities, if so, what is the achievement (till date) in this regard and to what extent the trade deficit is likely to be reduced as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) and (b) According to the previsional date available for the first nine months of 1985-86, *i.e.* April—December, 1985, India's trade deficit was Rs. 6211.00 crores as compared to Rs. 3599.97 crores in the corresponding period of the previous year. Apart from difficult international economic environment the decline in our overall exports during the first nine months of 1985-86 is attributable partly to the fact that the exports of crude oil, which had reached a peak level of Rs. 1563 crores during the year 1984-85, have virtually stopped after April, 1985 due to the development of domestic refining capacity. The export of crude oil during the first nine months of 1985-86 was only Rs. 135.15 crores. Apart from bulk commodities like fertilizers and POL, the increase in imports during the first 9 months of 1985-86 has been mostly with regard to industries raw material, intermediates and capital goods which are indicative of developmental needs of the economy.

(c) The trade deficit is on account of various factors and an outcome of the total imports and exports in all sectors. With a view to reducing trade deficit vigorous promotional measures have been taken during the recent past to increase export of all items including Agricultural commodities.

Talks between India and Mauritius on imposing sanctions against South Africa

816. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:
SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the recent visit of Prime Minister of India to Mauritius certain line of approach was adopted for being pursued by the two countries at the forthcoming Commonwealth and NAM meets for imposing concrete and mandatory economic sanctions against the Pretoria Regime of South Africa in order to force the latter to give up its Apartheid Policy; and

(b) if so, what are the details therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) Constant consultations with non-aligned countries and members of the Commonwealth with regard to the problems in South Africa have been an on-going process. This process has gained added significance and urgency due to rapidly developing situation in South Africa. It is in this context that the entire gamut of problems and prospects were reviewed during the discussion between our Prime Minister and Mauritiun leaders during our Prime Minister's recent visit to Mauritius. The question of imposing comprehensive mandatory economic